

shareholder" in GM and Chrysler, and it should divest its shareholder position as expeditiously as possible.

No one ever wanted the government to be in the car business, but the alternative was worse and the turmoil in the auto industry extends far beyond Detroit as most Americans know.

Dealerships across my State of Nebraska are feeling the impacts of decisions made by automakers following their bankruptcies. Chrysler has decided to terminate franchise agreements with 9 dealerships in Nebraska and GM intends to terminate franchise agreements with 21 dealerships in Nebraska.

These decisions are affecting dealerships and their employees in communities such as Arapahoe, Hastings, David City, Omaha, Auburn, Milford, Lincoln, Scottsbluff, and West Point have already been impacted by the auto bankruptcies. Auto parts manufacturing plants in communities like Kearney, Cozad, Grand Island, and Seward are also feeling the results of the downturn in the auto industry.

According to the Nebraska New Car and Truck Dealers Association, more than 13,600 Nebraskans work in jobs tied to the auto industry in my State and account for \$267 million in wages for Nebraska individuals and families.

However, now that an investment has been made, we owe it to the American taxpayers to be clear about what will happen with their money.

The resolution states that the Federal Government is a temporary stakeholder in the American automotive industry and should take all possible steps to protect America on taxpayer dollars and divest its ownership interests in such companies as expeditiously as possible.

The government should not be involved in day-to-day operations, and as soon as the auto companies have regained their financial footing the government must divest. Its involvement should not be open-ended.

Further, this resolution calls on the Government Accountability Office and the inspector general for the Troubled Assets Relief Program, or TARP, to continue providing oversight. In addition, the GAO and inspector general will report to Congress on automotive companies receiving financial assistance, so that the Federal Government may complete divestiture without delay.

This is not a partisan issue. Our deep economic crisis has already cost millions of Americans their jobs, and to add a collapse of the auto industry could add a devastating blow it would take years from which to recover.

We have had Presidents of both political parties recognize the need to address the current downfall of the auto industry and recognized the need to remove government involvement as quickly as possible.

On December 19, 2008, President Bush stated: "The actions I'm announcing today represent a step that we wish

were not necessary. But given the situation, it is the most effective and responsible way to address this challenge facing our nation. By giving the auto companies a chance to restructure, we will shield the American people from a harsh economic blow at a vulnerable time and we will give American workers an opportunity to show the world, once again, they can meet challenges with ingenuity and determination and bounce back from tough times and emerge stronger than before."

On March 30 this year, President Obama stated: "We cannot, and must not, and we will not let our auto industry simply vanish. This industry is like no other—it's an emblem of the American spirit; a once and future symbol of America's success. It's what helped build the middle class and sustained it throughout the 20th century. It's a source of deep pride for the generations of American workers whose hard work and imagination led to some of the finest cars the world has ever known. It's a pillar of our economy that has held up the dreams of millions of our people. . . . These companies—and this industry—must ultimately stand on their own, not as wards of the state."

So, to conclude, the government's move is aimed at providing stability for the automotive industry and for American workers across our great Nation in these uncertain economic times.

Our sense-of-the-Senate resolution affirms what the President has made clear: taxpayers should be protected and the government should get out of the auto business as soon as possible. Through this resolution, the Senate leaves no question about the government's future role in the U.S. auto industry.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY'S HOPE AWARD WINNER

Mr. REID. Madam President, I extend my warmest congratulations to John Ascuaga for this honor, as well as to his wife Rose and his entire family. I also commend the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for recognizing his contributions not only in the business world, but also for his generous philanthropic efforts.

John Ascuaga's Nugget for decades has been a first-class operation and a favorite destination of Nevadans and Americans from across the country. More than that, though, it has kept Sparks alive.

I have worked with John for many years. A first-generation American and a veteran, he has lived the American dream. And John would be the first to tell you he has done so with the support of his entire family, including his daughter, Michonne, whose leadership continues to keep the Nugget flourishing. Congratulations, John.

90TH ANNIVERSARY OF RENO RODEO

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise to extend my warmest congratulations to Gordon Cowan, John Solari, and the Reno Rodeo on this historic milestone.

The Reno Rodeo is celebrated throughout Nevada for its first-class entertainment and dedication to philanthropy, which continues this week for the 90th consecutive year.

The Nation's third largest regular-season rodeo, Nevadans look forward every year to its cowboys' skill and showmanship and its preservation of the great traditions of the West.

Particularly this year, the non profit Reno Rodeo's contributions to Nevada's economy are significant—it draws 120,000 fans and generates millions for the hotels, casinos, restaurants, and stores in northern Nevada.

But the Reno Rodeo is not only important to our economy—it is a central part of our community as well. Incredibly, the rodeo is run by only two full-time staff members and countless volunteers. Since 1986, it has donated more than \$5 million to various causes, including charities, community partnership grants, and educational scholarships to schools including the University of Nevada, Reno. It has also given generously to literacy, high school rodeo and therapeutic equestrian programs.

Nevada is particularly proud of the Exceptional Kids Rodeo, which for more than a quarter-century has given children with special needs the opportunity to interact with the rodeo cowboys, animals and the exciting rodeo experience.

The "Wildest, Richest Rodeo in the West" is one of Nevada's oldest and proudest cultural institutions, and we wish it many more decades of success.

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Mr. INOUE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have the attached subcommittee memberships for the 111th Congress printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUBCOMMITTEES

Senator Inouye, as chairman of the Committee, and Senator Cochran, as ranking minority member of the Committee, are ex officio members of all subcommittees of which they are not regular members.

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Kohl, Harkin, Dorgan, Feinstein, Durbin, Johnson, Nelson, Reed, Pryor, Specter, Brownback, Bennett, Cochran, Bond, McConnell, Collins. (10-6)

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Senators Mikulski, Inouye, Leahy, Kohl, Dorgan, Feinstein, Reed, Lautenberg, Nelson, Pryor, Shelby, Gregg, McConnell, Hutchison, Alexander, Voinovich, Murkowski. (10-7)